

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
AUGUST 19, 2004**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chris Kozaites, President, at 9:00 a.m., in the library at the El Dorado Park West Senior Center. Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Present: Chris Kozaites, President
Harry Saltzgaver, Vice President
Bea Antenore
Drew Satariano
William Marmion

Absent: Raymond Chavarria (excused)

Staff: Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine
Thomas Shippey, Manager, Maintenance Operations Bureau
Dennis Eschen, Manager, Planning and Development
Bert Srack, Acting Manager, Community Recreation Services
Kevin Preglovick, Manager, Business Operations
Mark Sandoval, Manager of Marinas and Beaches
Doug Parsons, Superintendent of Marina Operations
Robin Black, Executive Secretary to the Director

Guests: Dick Miller, Marine Advisory Commission
Julie Dover, Goodwill Industries
Janet McCarthy, Goodwill Industries
Bob Lamond, Partners of Parks

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 15, 2004

It was moved by Commissioner Marmion and seconded by Vice President Saltzgaver to approve the July 15, 2004 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

III. SAMMY AWARD PRESENTATION – LYDIA REMINSKY

Ms. Lydia Reminsky gave a PowerPoint presentation on the various places she took Sammy over the past month, such as the Municipal Band concert, the beach, the dragon boat races, the Aquarium of the Pacific, and camping in Idyllwild. She then presented the Sammy Award to Linda Greene, who works at El Dorado Regional Park.

IV. EMPLOYEES-OF-THE-MONTH PRESENTATIONS FOR JULY AND AUGUST

Vice President Saltzgaver announced Ms. Barbara Alhadeff as Business Operations Bureau's Administrative Employee of the Month for July. Ms. Cristina Cota stated that Ms. Alhadeff began with the Department in 1989 in the Payroll/Personnel Office. She said that Ms. Alhadeff is a part time Payroll/Personnel Assistant and supports the Business Operations Bureau and a big part of her duties is that she is the Department's Worker's Compensation Coordinator. Ms. Cota stated that Ms. Alhadeff monitors and tracks all the Department's injured workers. Ms. Cota stated that Ms. Alhadeff is the liaison with the City's Worker's Compensation Office, manages the Department's modified duty work program, and is considered an expert and has trained other Payroll/Personnel Assistants in other departments. She said that Ms. Alhadeff does a full time workload in four hours a day and is an extremely valued employee.

Vice President Saltzgaver announced Ms. Sara Murillo as Maintenance Operations Bureau's Field Operations Employee of the Month for August. Jorge Deleon stated that Ms. Murillo has been working for the Department for three years, beginning as part-time then moving to full-time. He said that Ms. Murillo's most outstanding qualities are her motivated and pleasant attitude and her work ethic. He said that Ms. Murillo has worked at various sites and at each location she has left an impressive and lasting impression.

Vice President Saltzgaver announced Ms. Karen Schoeppe as Marine Bureau's Services' Lead/Supervisory Employee of the Month for August. Mr. Joe Pitisi said that Karen has recently moved to the Rainbow Harbor and she has adapted very well and has done a great job wherever she has worked.

V. PRESENTATION TO NAOMI RAINEY

President Kozaites stated that Ms. Rainey was unable to attend, that she would attend the September 16, 2004 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

VI. COMMENDATION TO STAFF PROVIDING CULTURAL ARTS PROGRAMMING AT THE MIRACLE ON 4TH STREET PARK

President Kozaites stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission would like to commend Guillermo Avalos, Brooks Davis, Connie Davis, Christina Barragan, and Heather Green, the supervisor, for providing cultural arts programming at the Miracle on 4th Street Park. He asked Heather Green to tell the Commission about the program.

Ms. Green said that she was very glad to see the Miracle on 4th Street Park develop through Leadership Long Beach, the Parks, Recreation and Marine Department, and the Conservation Corps. She said that in developing this mini-park they noticed the children in the neighborhood were playing in the alley and the parking lot. She stated that she and Christina Barragan went to the Sudsy Laundromat and held the first art classes there. Ms. Green said that Councilmember Baker decided that an art program was really needed at the park. She stated that Darryl Rouse, the owner, let them use a storage room in back of the Sudsy Laundromat for their art program. She said that Christina was the first supervisor there, but has since moved over to the Office of Special Events and Filming. Ms. Green said that Guillermo Avalos was the lead artist for the murals and fence art and he helped Christina out in the art programs. She said that Connie is the new supervisor at the park. Ms. Green stated that Brooks also helps out with the art programs and the kids just love him. She said that they have about 40 to 50 children attend for the summer lunch program and about 20 to 25 children for after school activities. Ms. Green said that she is very fortunate to be with the Department and work with staff like these.

Vice President Saltzgaver said that he followed the progress of this little park and it is truly a little miracle for the neighborhood.

Mr. Hester stated that this was the first model of the mini-park program in the city. He congratulated the staff.

VII. HANDING OVER OF HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS – DICK MILLER

Mr. Miller stated that in going through old items in his garage, he came across some things that he thought would really interest the Parks and Recreation Commission. He displayed a photo of the opening of the Bay Shore area on July 31, 1941, and read a portion of the newspaper clipping. Mr. Miller then presented a photo and article about Brighton Beach, where the blimp and seaplane base was located, announcing the grand opening of a campground called the Long Beach Municipal Auto Camp, in 1936. Mr. Miller also presented a photo of the Colorado Lagoon and the diving tower where Pete Archer taught Pat Keller McCormick to dive. Mr. Miller presented these articles and photos to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

VIII. COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS

#04-0801

PERSONAL SERVICES/INSTRUCTION AGREEMENTS-MONTHLY APPROVAL

President Kozaites said that there were no Personal Services/Instruction Agreements this month.

#04-0802

MEMORIAL BENCH FOR JEANNE FECK

Vice President Saltzgaver asked if it is a requirement that the memorial benches only be available for those who had passed on. Mr. Shippey said that there is no such requirement.

It was moved by Commissioner Marmion and seconded by Commissioner Satariano to approve the placement and installation of the memorial bench for Ms. Jeanne Feck at Wardlow Park. The motion carried unanimously.

#04-0803

APPROVAL OF ONE GRANT APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAM AND ONE GRANT APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

Mr. Hester stated that these are two grant programs available for potential funding for trails and the Department has applied for these in the past.

Mr. Eschen stated that this area is between the El Dorado Park Golf Course and the San Gabriel River, which is a Department of Water and Power right of way, but City park property. He said that the Department wants to do a habitat restoration and wetlands restoration in this area. He stated that the wetlands restoration is replacement habitat for the wetlands that had been found on the Sports Park site, between Spring and Willow Streets.

Mr. Hester stated that this would be a continuation of a similar area in the City of Lakewood, just north of Carson Street, that they received funding for. He stated that this would be a continuation of a bike trail and walking trail on the right of way.

It was moved by Commissioner Antenore and seconded by Commissioner Marmion to recommend to the City Council the approval of the above application for grant funds to the California Department of Parks and Recreation. The motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that last Tuesday night, at the City Council meeting, Councilmember Colonna got a resolution passed on the potential elimination of the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC). He said that the RMC has been very active in the Nature Center and wetlands grant process and asked if there was anything that the Parks and Recreation Commission should be doing.

Mr. Hester stated that perhaps the Commission could send a letter supporting the RMC to Councilmember Colonna. He said that the Department has been fortunate in receiving a fair amount of funding from the RMC for various projects along both the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers. He stated that public meetings would be held in Fresno that Councilmember Colonna is planning on attending, to testify on behalf of the City Council.

Mr. Eschen stated that this is part of the Governor's report card and all the conservancies that do not have a statewide interest are being proposed to be cut off from the State government and made regional agencies. He said that they would have to be restructured to become joint powers authorities or they would no longer exist. He said that the Department of Boating and Waterways would be reorganized into one of the super agencies and its functions would be broken up into three different super agencies, one for environmental restoration, one for licensing, and one for infrastructure.

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that he believes this is critical that the Parks and Recreation Commission step up to the plate on this one.

Mr. Hester stated that the Mayor is also on the Governor's review committee that is hearing this issue.

Commissioner Marmion suggested that the Parks and Recreation Commission send a letter in support of this.

Commissioner Antenore seconded the suggestion.

President Kozaites asked if all of the Commissioners were in favor and all responded positively.

IX. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE President Kozaites, Chair

President Kozaites stated that the Committee met and discussed the agenda.

B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
Commissioner Satariano, Chair

Commissioner Satariano stated that the Committee met this morning and the attachment was included in the packet. He said that the Committee is working on a policy for fee waivers.

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE
Commissioner Marmion, Chair

Commissioner Marmion stated that the Committee did not meet this month; they meet quarterly. He said that the reports were included in the packet.

D. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION COMMITTEE
Commissioner Chavarria, Chair

Commissioner Satariano stated that Commissioner Chavarria was not in attendance. He said that they met this morning and the report is included in the packet.

E. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS COMMITTEE
Vice President Saltzgaver, Chair

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that the Committee did not meet this month. He said that concrete has been poured for the Houghton Skate Park.

Mr. Hester stated that the opening of the Houghton Skate Park would possibly be held September 18 or 25.

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that the PacifiCenter would be held today before the Planning Commission for their first study session.

F. CITY SCHOOLS/JOINT COMMITTEE
Commissioner Antenore, Chair

Commissioner Antenore stated that the Committee met last week at Cesar Chavez Park and then walked over to the new school, which is being built. She stated that the gymnasium will be open to the public and the school and the children will be able to play in the park.

X. DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION

A. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – JULY 2004

Commissioner Antenore asked if the sports teams are really aware of and taking care of not leaving lights on at the sports fields. Mr. Hester responded that the Department sends a monthly report of light usage to each team.

President Kozaites asked if there were any negative complaints about the boat races at Marine Stadium last weekend. Mr. Hester responded that there was one complaint about the PA system. He explained the Department's policy about Marine Stadium uses.

XI. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Hester said that they anticipated that Mr. Larry Goodhue would possibly attend the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting today and that he would bring approximately 50 people. Mr. Hester said that Mr. Goodhue faxed a letter to the Commission regarding the Goodwill Donation Center. He said that this item came before the Parks and Recreation Commission on July 15, and then went before the City Council, who approved it. He stated that the item still needs to go before Planning and Building and do community outreach on this project. He said that no agreements have been signed as of yet.

Commissioner Marmion said that the question that was raised to him was are the Parks and Recreation Commission the appropriate body for this issue and do they have jurisdiction. He asked if this issue should have gone before the Marine Advisory Commission. Mr. Hester responded that the Marine Advisory Commission capacity is as an advisory group, but that he probably should have brought it before them for their information. He said that this item would be brought before the Marine Advisory Commission.

Commissioner Marmion asked that when the agreement is finalized, for the Department to keep the Parks and Recreation Commission informed.

Mr. Hester distributed a letter from the City Manager to the Parks and Recreation Commission in response to their letter to him regarding their recommendation for fees, which were approved by the Commission.

Commissioner Antenore asked about cuts for the Municipal Band concerts. Mr. Hester responded that there would be no reductions of the band concerts in 2005.

President Kozaites stated that a band should be kept to play in the parks during the summer and that perhaps bands could be found to volunteer to play, such as youth bands or perhaps a cheaper band could be found.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Commissioner Antenore asked if there was any word on a new Parks and Recreation Commissioner. Mr. Hester responded that he had not heard if the Mayor had decided yet.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

President Kozaites stated that Kevin Prelgovisk, Manager of Business Operations, is leaving the City. He said that Kevin has brought such a level of expertise to the Department and that they were sorry to see him go.

Mr. Prelgovisk thanked the Commissioners and said that it has been a pleasure to work for the Department. He said that after he went through his rotations as an intern, he began working for the City in this Department in 1989, recently returning to work here again. He said that he has never worked with better people and that the Director is extremely hard working. He said that he is proud to have worked with the staff. Mr. Prelgovisk said that the only reason he is leaving was because he has an opportunity to go back to his goal of being on the assistant city manager/city manager track. He thanked everyone for their comments.

XIV. COMMENTS

A. AUDIENCE

Mr. Bob Lamond stated that he agrees with President Kozaites' comments on the Municipal Band.

B. STAFF

Ms. Srack distributed invitations to the California Recreation Center gymnasium reopening.

Ms. Srack stated that Ms. Sherri Nixon-Joiner was recently selected as the Superintendent to replace Chrissy Marshall, who was promoted to General Superintendent. She said that Ms. Nixon-Joiner has almost as many years with the Department as she has.

Ms. Srack distributed a report requested from the Commission about contract classes.

C. COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Marmion congratulated Kevin on his career and wished him well, but he sympathized with Mr. Hester.

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that the Commissioners need to stay apprised of the budget and what is going on. He said that he attended the Budget Oversight Committee meeting last week and there is a certain lack of understanding.

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that he would like to put on next month's Commission agenda a report of what the budget ends up with.

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that he would also like to know how the Department is doing with contract oversight, perhaps some kind of report on how the contractors are doing.

President Kozaites suggested that a presentation be scheduled for next month's meeting. He said that he noticed that there is no place for a park maintenance report on the committee listing. He suggested that the report be placed under the Executive Committee.

Mr. Hester stated that staff would discuss it and then get back to the Commission.

Vice President Saltzgaver suggested that it could even be a quarterly report.

XV. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 16, 2004, in the library at El Dorado Park West Senior Center, 2800 Studebaker Road, Long Beach.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

President Kozaites adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Black
Executive Secretary
to the Director

c: Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine